

I hope you will all join me in congratulating Bishop Glenn on this momentous achievement.

DO YOUR JOB

(Mr. GALLAGHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, trust in government is at a record low, and it is not hard to see why.

In 2016, Members of the House of Representatives were in session for a total of just 55 full legislative days. That is 55 days out of 365. In what other job are you allowed to work for just 55 days a year?

Looking at this, it is not hard to understand why Congress has a lower approval rating than cockroaches, colonoscopies, and Genghis Khan.

Despite working for 55 days out of the year, Members of this body are paid more than three times the median household income in America.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I have introduced the Do Your Job Act, which would prohibit Congress from taking a recess until it passes a budget and funds the government. In other words, Congress can't take a vacation until it does its job. I know this sounds simple. But where I am from in northeast Wisconsin, if you don't do your job, you lose that job; if you don't finish your work, you do not collect a paycheck.

Here we are just a day away from leaving this Chamber for a 2-week break from legislative activity, risking government shutdown, and yet we are leaving.

This is unacceptable, and this is why I am standing before you today. I am urging all of my colleagues in the 115th Congress to unite behind a simple idea: let's work together and do our jobs.

STATE DEPARTMENT CUTS

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's dedicated diplomats, the hardworking men and women at the State Department and USAID who are heroically serving our country here and around the world.

In his very first budget, President Trump has proposed draconian cuts to these agencies. These reductions threaten not only our leadership in the world, but they put our Nation's people and interests at unnecessary risk.

Our global leadership depends on balanced investment in three areas: defense, diplomacy, and development. Undermining any one of these pillars weakens all of them.

The State Department and USAID's effectiveness and success is not a function of equipment or technology. Rather, it is the experience, capabilities, and strategic deployment of our people.

In a world where our challenges are, every day, more numerous and more

complex, we are constantly sending our diplomats to places further afield. They are deserving of our full support and our utmost respect for their bravery, dedication, and service in defense of the United States and our values.

I call on my colleagues to join me in protecting our strategically important investments in diplomats, diplomacy, and development, as well as defense.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. BUDDY HICKS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of my friend, Dr. Buddy Hicks of Kingwood, Texas, who passed away Sunday while delivering a sermon at Pipeline Church in Humble, Texas.

This is a photograph of Buddy and his wife, Carolyn, and their grandson, Cole.

Buddy was doing what he loved to do until the very moment that the good Lord called him home. The Lord called him home right in the middle of his sermon.

For nearly 30 years, Buddy has faithfully and tenaciously ministered to congregations throughout the great State of Texas. He was a man of God, always had a smile, never met a stranger. He spent his life spreading the gospel to communities throughout Texas and bringing other followers to fellowship with each other.

Buddy was a member of my pastors' roundtable, an organization that he organized that had religious leaders from all faiths come together to work together in our community.

I leaned on him for prayer and guidance. I have a great deal of appreciation for Buddy and his dedication to church and the Humble-area community. He will be sorely missed.

My prayers are with his wife, Carolyn; their three children, Angela, Shari, and Trey—Trey worked for me here in Congress—and our prayers also go to his two grandchildren, Cole and Zoe, for they will miss their Pops.

2 Timothy 4:7 recites Buddy's life to a tee:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

And that is just the way it is.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize families across this great country who have been tragically affected by the growing opioid epidemic plaguing our communities.

All too often, we hear the heart-wrenching stories from families who have lost loved ones to this pernicious

scourge. We have heard from law enforcement officers and healthcare providers who have chronicled the growing influx of crime and addiction in our society.

In 2016, in Broome County alone in my district, 76 people died from drug overdoses. Ninety percent of those deaths were opioid related.

We have kicked the can down the road for far too long. Now, Congress must act swiftly and work to provide resources for those struggling with addiction by supporting rehabilitation centers, as well as educational and preventative programs.

That is why I am taking the lead on the national level by supporting the funding of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act in the 2018 budget. This is only a start, but I will continue to fight across all sectors to find comprehensive and caring solutions to this tragedy in our communities.

RECENT ATTACKS IN SYRIA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a mother. As I looked at the video of young children trying to survive, trying to live in Syria—this is one of the most potent pictures—I had to come and cry out for the mothers and children of that vile and heinous act.

I am calling upon Americans and this government to stop talking and to act, to begin to demand that Russia stop assisting President Assad—himself a terrorist—against his people and begin to understand that the chemical attack was driven by Assad's bombers.

No matter where it might have been, you have to know that families are here.

To my Syrian neighbors in Houston, Texas, we are standing with you. We must find a resolution.

Even as we are investigating Russian collusion and Russian investigation into elections, the President must say to Vladimir Putin to become a world citizen and not a thug. This is thuggish. We are killing people.

The Syrian people and Syria deserve to live. We must stand up and fight together, and I hope that we will immediately be able to respond to this with the United Nations, with our surrounding neighbors, and with legislation that brings sanctions against Russia and Assad.

MAJOR GOALS

(Mr. BIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to my constituents and report on promises I made to them.

I promised to introduce legislation to prevent Members of Congress from being paid until a balanced budget is passed.